



**The Association  
of Kansas Theatre  
presents ...**

# **FUSION**

## **AKT CONVENTION '92**

**MIDWEST REGIONAL FESTIVAL OF  
THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES**

**"Sharing Kansas Theatre"**



**Eighteenth Annual Convention  
Lawrence, Kansas  
March 5, 6, 7, & 8, 1992**

## Welcome

### **A Message from the President of AKT, Professor John C.Hunter...**

The Holidome, great plays, fabulous speakers, wild and wonderful entertainment and an excellent environment to learn, experience and share with others. Your 18th. annual convention has been organized especially for you. Hours upon hours of hard work and dedication have gone into this convention. Ric Averill, Laurie Vander Pol-Hosek, John Gedraitis our Ex.Director, the Board of Trustees, and Tony Naylor who gave us technical assistance are all to be congratulated for their efforts.

To the teachers from across the state who are taking advantage of the in-service credit, a warm AKT welcome.

To the wonderfully talented performing companies who have committed themselves to our convention,...break-a-leg.

To our special guests, a hearty Kansas hello and thanks for sharing your time and expertise with us.

To the businesses and organizations that assist us financially and provided us the opportunity to celebrate our art, a sincere thanks from the entire membership.

The schedule is complete, the curtain is going up on what I hope will be a memorable convention for you. Enjoy!

### **Greetings from the Convention Chairs, Ric Averill...**

Thanks to all of you for joining us here at the Association of Kansas Theatre Convention '92; FUSION: Midwest Regional Festival of Theatre for Young Audiences. I urge you all to talk, to interact, and to enjoy your time together.

Kansas is fertile land for children's theatre artists. The state supports three professional children's theatres offering graduate degrees in the field and thousands of performing opportunities for out of state performers and companies through arts councils and schools. Of the six states involved in the Mid-America Arts Alliance Regional Touring Program, Kansas consistently uses up its allotment of funding first. Several of the largest Kansas Arts Commission Grants go to professional children's theatres and the Kansas Touring Program provides funding to hundreds of communities to bring those home state artists to the children of Kansas and their families.

Dr. Jed Davis, our keynote speaker and honorary chair, made Lawrence his home beginning in 1958 and built Kansas University Theatre for Young People, a curriculum and performance program with national impact. Carole Sullivan, director of the Kennedy Center Theatre for Young People, arrived there via Olathe, Kansas and then through work with Dr. Davis. John Holly, formerly of Music Theatre in Wichita, developed the AKT "Showcase" of Regional Theatre for Young People in the late 1970's and early 80's which helped launch the touring careers of many of the companies represented at the current festival.

The Association of Kansas Theatre and Lawrence, Kansas, are proud, therefore, to once again host a convention that pays tribute to an area of theatre so significant to the artistic life of this great state of ours.

I want to give special thanks to the showcasing companies. Each have taken time from busy schedules during a season beset with recession related financial woes to come, at their own expense, and share their work with you. Please be sure to attend the performances and then sit in on the "Fusion" sessions where our guests Pamela Sterling, Max Bush and Eleanor Brodie Jones will share thoughts and feelings about the productions and how they "fuse" into our goal of interlocking art and education.

Future? I hope we'll be able to do this again. What a great opportunity for us to learn from and with each other. All the companies I contacted were immediately enthusiastic about the Festival, and those that couldn't attend promised to participate in "the next one". I hope that at some point during the next three days the seeds will be sown for yet another fertile planting of theatre in Kansas!

# WELCOME TO AKT CONVENTION '92 FUSION

Midwest Regional Festival of Theatre for Young Audiences

## FUSION

- bringing together the theatre of :
  - Presenters and Artists
  - Teachers and Directors
  - Performers and Playwrights
  - Communities and Professionals
  - Colleges and High Schools

## FUSION

- the bringing together of:
  - Pamela Sterling, Artistic Director, Honolulu Theatre for Youth, Playwright, Director Eleanor Brodie Jones, Director, Nebraska Theatre Caravan
  - Max Bush, Michigan Playwright
- and:** Theatre Works, U.S.A., New York
- Wichita Children's Theatre Outreach, Wichita
- Nebraska Theatre Caravan, Omaha
- Lawrence High School, Lawrence
- Theatre for Young America, Overland Park
- Pioneer Trail Jr. High, Olathe
- Seen-To-Be Players, Lawrence
- Illustrated Theatre Company, Chicago & Denver
- Kansas University Theatre for Young People, Lawrence
- and:** Jed Davis, Keynote Speaker
- and:** You - AKT Members
- Teachers across Kansas seeking a bright fun in-service experience
- Presenters looking for the best in Children's Theatres for their programs
- Educators looking for ways to fuse children's theatre into their programs
- Community Theatres looking for Outreach programs for youth

## FUSION: OUTCOME?

- Shared ideas;
  - new ways to fuse theatre and education
  - new ways to fuse theatre for youth into current programs
  - new ways to include education components with presenting
  - new ways to bring children ( and their parents ) into your Community Theatre
  - new ways to have children college-prepped in Theatre

## FUSION: HOW?

- Enjoy these next three & 1/2 days - meet people, see shows, attend workshops, congratulate awardees, eat, drink, dance and be merry and leave the rest of the world outside these walls as we fuse minds in a joyous celebration of theatre!

- Ric Averill

# AKT CONVENTION '92 FUSION!

## Midwest Regional Festival Of Theatre For Young Audiences

**March 5-8, 1992**

Lawrence Holiday Inn, Lawrence, Kansas

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

\*Indicates in-service activity (open to all members)

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 5TH

**PM 3:00 - \* REGISTRATION** - Concourse & Display Area

**4:00 - Divisional Meetings** - Each Division will meet to fuse the year gone by with upcoming plans and events!

Community Theatre: Laurie Vander Pol-Hosek, Chair Elect, Brazilian Theatre.

Children's Theatre: Ric Averill, Chair, Brazilian Theatre.

Professional Theatre: Repha Buckman, Chair, Brazilian Theatre.

Secondary Schools: Phil Kinen, Chair, Regency D - II

University / College: Rick Tyler, Chair, D - I

**5:30 - \*Welcome Banquet, Regency B**

**Opening Remarks and Welcome -**

Ric Averill, Convention Chair

John Hunter, President

**6:45 - \* Fusion Drama Curriculum and plan for convention, Phil Kinen**

**\* Introduction of special guests:**

Jed Davis, Honorary Chair

Pam Sterling, Honolulu Theatre for Youth

Max Bush, Playwright, Michigan

Eleanor Jones, Nebraska Theatre Caravan

**ALL PERFORMANCES HELD IN BRAZILIAN THEATRE!!!**

**7:30 - \*SCRAPBOOKS** by Pam Sterling

-Lawrence High School Theatre ( Lawrence )

**9:00 - \*FUSION SESSION #1 - ALL CONVENTION EVENT** - Regency D - I

Discussion with Playwright, Pam Sterling, and other Fusion Panel members Max Bush & Eleanor Brodie Jones.

**9:30 - AFTERGLOW** - Regency D - II

## FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH

AM Breakfast on your own!

9:00 - \* **PERFORMANCE** - "The World of Missing Persons"  
Pioneer Trail Jr. High School (Olathe, Kansas )

9:00 - **Workshop A.** - "P.R. or How to Market Your Theatre"  
Regency D - II - John Gedraitis, facilitator, Charles Kephart, Salina Community Theatre, Jackie Hinton, Atchison Community Theatre.  
**Workshop B.** - "Accessible Arts - the joys and challenges facing theatres embracing the Americans with Disabilities Act" - Regency D - I, Thomas Klocke, Project Coordinator for Accessible Arts, Inc., Kansas City.

10:30 - \* **PERFORMANCE** - "Crying to Laugh"  
Kansas University Theatre for Young People ( Lawrence )

10:45 - **Workshop A.** - "Fund Raising: Before you see red; planning annual and capitol fund drives" - Regency D - II, Mary Doveton, Lawrence Community Theatre, facilitator, Charles Kephart, Salina Community Theatre.  
**Workshop B.** - "Accessible Arts - the joys and challenges facing theatres embracing the Americans with Disabilities Act" - Regency D - I, Thomas Klocke, Project Coordinator for Accessible Arts, Inc., Kansas City.

11:30 - 1:30 - **Box Lunches** - Concourse & Display Area  
( Box lunch orders may be placed at the registration table up to 9:00 AM of the convention day - look over our class act gifts )

## AFTERNOON

12:30 - **\*FUSION SESSION #2** - Regency D - II, Panel discussion of morning productions, Eleanor Jones, Facilitator.

1:30 - \* **PERFORMANCE** - "Goldilocks"  
Theatre for Young America ( Overland Park, Kansas )

1:30 - **Workshop A.** - "For the Teachers of Acting - sharing ideas about effective methods of dealing with actors" - Regency D - II, Dr. Jack Wright, University of Kansas.  
**Workshop B.** - "The Other Arts in the Theatre - A study of how other art forms can be incorporated into current productions and used to expand the theatre curriculum" - Regency D - II, Phil Kinen, Pioneer Trails Junior High School.

3:00 - \*Choice of following AKT workshops  
**Workshop A.** - "Creative Design with Minimal Space and Minimal Budget" - Regency D - I, Tony Naylor, Washburn University, Facilitator, Tom Ward, Salina Community Theatre, Amy Hensley, Hutchinson Community College, Joe Baer, Topeka Civic Theatre Construction  
**Workshop B.** - "Round Table : Turning Stumbling Blocks into Stepping Stones - How to Produce a Winning Secondary Program" - Regency C, Jeanne Averill, Lawrence High, Facilitator, Max Brown, Blue Valley North, Kansas City, Mark Clark, Baldwin, Phil Kinen, Olathe.

**Workshop C.** - "Starting from Scratch: Building a Children's Program in your Theatre" - Regency D - II, Laurie Vander Pol-Hosek, Lawrence, Facilitator, Kate Taylor and Charles Kephart, Salina Community Theatre, Jackie Hinton, Atchison.

**4:15 - SPECIAL REFRESHMENT BREAK** - Popcorn & Soda provided by Lawrence Convention and Visitor's Bureau - in the Concourse

**4:30 - ALL CONVENTION SPECIAL GUEST PRESENTATION:**  
Brazilian Theatre Room, "Hell Hath No Fury Like ... ; or producing on the Edge." Mr. Mike McElhaney, Professor of acting, directing and theatre at Southwest Missouri State.

- A discussion of the production to "The Normal Heart" which caused such controversy that it attracted national attention and made the university a political pawn in the question of censorship of the arts.

**6:00 - SECONDARY AWARDS BANQUET** - Regency B

**6:45 - SECONDARY AWARDS & Special Guest Speaker** Carole Sullivan, Director of the Kennedy Center Theatre for Young People

**8:00 - \*PERFORMANCE - "I Married Adventure"**  
The Seem-To-Be Players ( Lawrence )

**9:30 - Afterglow ( Optional )**

**11:00 - Special Surprise Performance in Theatre short and strange - is it dance? is it theatre?**

## **SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH**

**AM**

**Breakfast on your own!**

**8:30 - \*FUSION SESSION #3** - Regency D - II, discussion of prior afternoon and evening performances, Max Bush, Facilitator.

**9:30 - \*PERFORMANCE - "Sleeping Beauty"**  
Wichita Children's Theatre ( Wichita, Kansas )

**9:15 - Workshop A.** - "Advanced Directing" - Regency D - I, Roger Moon, Winfield.  
**Workshop B.** - "Starting a New Drama Program in a Church Setting or new Opportunities for Theatre Practitioners in the Church; Three Scenes" - Regency C, Laurie VanderPol-Hosek, director & members of the Heartland Community Church Drama Team, Lawrence.

**11:00 - \*PERFORMANCE - "Shakespeare in Action"**  
Theatre Works USA ( New York, New York )

**11:00 - Workshop A.** - "The 'unified' Music Director, pros and cons of guiding a musical from selection through strike" - Regency D - I, Mike Boring, Lawrence and guest performers.

**Workshop B.** - "Adapting Classroom Readings for performance: An Introduction to Transformation Theatre" - Regency D - II, The Illustrated Theatre Company.

## AFTERNOON

**12:00 - 1:30 PM** **Box Lunches** - Concourse & Display Area  
( Box lunch orders may be placed at the registration table up to 9:00AM of the convention day - look over our class act gifts )

**12:45 -** **\*FUSION SESSION#4** - Regency D - II, Discussion of morning performances, Pam Sterling, Facilitator.

**1:30 -** **\*PERFORMANCE** - "Ichabod"  
Nebraska Theatre Caravan

**1:30 -** **Workshop A.** - "Teaching Playwrighting for ages 12 - 18" - Regency D - I, How to adapt the five step approach to writing to playwrighting with Phil Kinen, Pioneer Trails Jr. High School, Olathe

**Workshop B.** - "From Garbage to Glamour, Costume Design with Su Mai" - Regency D - II, Tips on how to shop at junk stores, used clothing stores and make those purchases into useful stage costumes. Su J. Mai, Emporia State University.

**3:00 -** **\*PERFORMANCE** - "Tallest of Tales", Illustrated Theatre Company ( Chicago, Illinois & Denver, Colorado )

**3:30 -** **Workshop A.** - "Organizing Your Box Office, hard ticket or computer?" - the never-ending puzzle" - Regency D - I, John Hunter, Facilitator, Donna Jenks, Topeka Civic Theatre, Debbie Grey, Topeka Performing Arts Center.  
**Workshop B.** - "Celebrating Theatre in Our Schools Month" - Regency D- II, Eric Magnus, Facilitator.

**4:30 -** **Workshop A.** - "Four Class Acts! Kansas Playwrights in Action" - Regency D - I, Repha Buckman, Facilitator, Larry Sadowski, James Juhnke, Bob Peterson, James Steerman and Bob Lawson, editor of Woodley Press. Playwrights will discuss the upcoming book of winning Kansas plays!  
**Workshop B.** - "Directing in Action; three different directors approach the same scene" - Regency D - II, Bill Brewer, Hutchinson, Jeanne Averill, Lawrence, Community College and Phil Kinen, Olathe.

**6:00 -** **Cash Bar**

**7:00 -** **FORMAL DINNER / DANCE** - Regency B& C - Black Tie Optional  
**PRESENTATION OF MAJOR AWARDS**  
Award of Merit  
Steven B. Cathey Award  
Outstanding Achievement in Theatre  
Kansas Theatre Hall of Fame  
**JED DAVIS, KEYNOTE SPEECH**

**9:00 -** **Dance with Chuck Berg** ( Dance Only - \$5.00 )

## **SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH**

### **AM**

**9:00 - Breakfast, checkout on own (Check out - 11:00 AM)**

**10:30 - \*FUSION SESSION #5 - Regency D - II, Roundtable Wrap Up Discussion of afternoon performances and entire festival!**

**11:30 - WRAP UP - DIVISIONAL MEETINGS - Brazilian Theatre**

### **AFTERNOON**

**12:30 - \*SEND OFF BUFFET - Regency B**  
**FUSION Wrap Up & Send off - Selections from Graffiti Board & Plans for Next Year's Convention!!!**

Our performing companies invite you to join them in the display area. Informational materials are available and managements of the professional companies are happy to discuss future bookings with you at any time during the convention. Tables will be attended during lunchtime and before and after each company's performance. Please let us know if you are interested in booking and we will sign you up as a presenter so that we may forward your name to our visiting companies.

This is hopefully the first of many Midwest Regional Festivals - a wonderful opportunity for companies to Showcase and presenters to book.

## **EDUCATIONAL COMPANIES SHOWCASING:**

### **Lawrence High School -**

“Scrapbooks” by Pamela Sterling, with music by Chris Limber, toured Kansas last fall through a grant from Kansas Action for Children. The play, directed by guest artist Ric Averill, was performed in Topeka, Wichita, Kansas city, Dodge City and Lawrence. The program was used as a springboard for discussion of teen pregnancy in all locations. Lawrence High's highly successful theatre program is led by Jeanne Averill, who directs one production a year and brings in guest directors for the remaining 4-5 performance slots. The program encourages innovative work, including Laurie Vander Pol-Hosek's “Under Age”, which performed at AKT in 1988, and a recent improvisational production, “Black Is...” performed by the Black Student Union Theatre Group.

**CONTACT:** Jeanne Averill  
Lawrence High School  
Lawrence, Kansas (913) 842-6622

### **Pioneer Trail Junior High-**

“The World of Missing Persons” is one of many fine creative projects that have been developed by Phil Kinen as part of his Olathe theatre program. Boasting fine administrative support, Phil has been able to build a program which is a prime example of drama in education curriculum in action. Last year, Phil, Carol Dittmer and Anne Meeker-Miller received an Award of Merit from AKT for a theatre piece which “mainstreamed” developmentally disabled youth into a dramatic work.

**CONTACT:** Phil Kinen  
Pioneer Trail Junior High  
Olathe, Kansas (913) 829-6900

### **Kansas University Theatre for Young People (KUTYP) -**

“Crying to Laugh”, directed by Jeanne Klein, is the most recent of the innovative works produced under Dr. Klein’s leadership. The play, originated by La Theatre de la Marmaille represents Jeanne’s “primary inspiration for what theatre for young audiences ought to be ...” Jeanne is very active in AATE and ASSITEJ and her articles and research are frequently found in the publications of both organizations. KUTYP is one of the nation’s oldest children’s theatre drama programs - founded by Dr. Jed Davis over Thirty years ago.

CONTACT:

Dr. Jeanne Klein  
Kansas University Theatre for Young People  
Lawrence, Kansas (913) 864-3381

## **PROFESSIONAL COMPANIES SHOWCASING:**

### **Theatre for Young America -**

“Goldilocks” is a typical touring production by this fine Kansas company. Theatre for Young America was formed by Gene and Dave Mackey and Sheryl Bryant in the early 1970’s as an outgrowth of a Kansas City dinner theatre and became the first Equity children’s theatre in the state. The company’s “Babylonian Encounter,” a piece on sexual abuse, won national recognition and is still being toured across the country. The company is part of the Kansas Arts Commission Touring Program and the Mid-America Arts Alliance Regional Touring Program.

CONTACT:

Jacqee Gafford  
Theatre for Young America  
Overland Park, Kansas (913) 648-4600

### **Seem-To-Be Players -**

“I Married Adventure” is a vaudeville musical biography of native Kansas Safari photographers Osa and Martin Johnson. Working closely with the Safari Museum in Chanute, Kansas, Playwright/Artistic Director Ric Averill developed the multi-media piece which has already toured Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri and the San Diego Zoo! The Seem-To-Be Players will celebrate their 20th season next year. The Equity company is part of the Kansas Arts Commission Touring Program and is supported in part by Hallmark Bards, Payless Shoe Source and Southwestern Bell.

CONTACT:

David Hann  
Seem-To-Be Players  
Lawrence, Kansas (913) 843-5067 or 842-6622

### **Wichita Children’s Theatre -**

“Sleeping Beauty” is the most recent touring production of this renowned professional Kansas children’s theatre. The Prince Street Players version of this classic is typical of the fine music and excellent sets that make the company a mainstay of subscription series and school performances across Kansas. Wichita Children’s Theatre was the originator of AKT’s “Showcasing” of Theatre for Young Audiences in the late 1970’s and early 1980’s. The company is part of the Kansas Arts Commission Touring Program and is supported in part by the Wichita Public Schools.

CONTACT:

Monica Flynn  
Wichita Children’s Theatre  
Wichita, Kansas (316) 262-2282

### **Theatreworks, U.S.A., New York**

“Shakespeare in Action” is a two person production that is part of the educational and artistic outreach of “America’s largest and most outstanding theatre for young and family audiences”. Theatreworks features a home season at the Promenade Theatre in New York and then tours various productions in 49 states with an annual audience of over 2 million. The company emphasizes; works that provide positive role models, works that adapt literary classics and works that address significant issues which help young people cope with their lives.

CONTACT: Cathy Barnett

Theatreworks, U.S.A.

New York (212) 677-5959

Kansas City, Missouri (816) 444-3631

### **Nebraska Theatre Caravan, Omaha, Nebraska**

“Ichabod,” by Charles Jones, is an innovative look at children’s fear and their ability to overcome it. The production was conceived and written by Omaha Community Playhouse Executive Director, Charles Jones, who is well known for his popular touring adaptation of “A Christmas Carol”. The Nebraska Theatre Caravan is the professional touring wing of the Playhouse - the largest community theatre in the nation and the only community theatre to sponsor a national professional touring company. The 15 member resident company tours all sizes of cities across the U.S. and Canada during an eight month tour.

CONTACT: Carolyn Rutherford

Nebraska Theatre Caravan

Omaha, Nebraska (402) 553-6288, FAX

(402) 553-4890

### **Illustrated Theatre Company, Chicago & Denver**

“Tallest of Tales” is the latest piece of innovative “transformational theatre” by this Chicago area company. Founded in 1983 by Scott Smith and Gale Farnsworth, the Company has pioneered the use of animation mime and object transformation, testing the limits of physical theatre, as actors become everything from volcanoes to typewriters to heartbeats. With only a handful of found objects, original leather and paper masks and the soul of the actor, the Illustrated Theatre creates an arena where anything can happen. The company tours nationally.

CONTACT: Joann Murdock

Artists of Note

Kaneville, Illinois (708) 557-2742

## **PROFESSIONAL COMPANIES DISPLAYING:**

### **Metro Theatre Circus, St. Louis, Missouri**

A premiere touring company, Metro receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts for their innovative musical theatre. The company wanted to showcase by their touring production of “Beowulf” is in Alaska at this time! The tour offering for next year will be an adaptation of Carl Sandburg’s “Rootabaga Stories”. Please stop by and see Kitty Daly at their display area.

CONTACT: Kitty Daly

Metro Theatre Circus

St. Louis, Missouri (314) 727-3552

### **Emmy Gifford Children’s Theatre, Omaha, Nebraska**

One of Omaha’s longest laying children’s theatres, this gifted company, under the artistic direction of James Larson, is beginning a national tour on a scale far too large to fit into our Brazilian room theatre. Their main offering next season will be Max Bush’s “Hansel and Gretel”. Please pick up information at their display, or find an opportunity to talk to Roberta Larson, who will be attending the convention.

CONTACT: Roberta Larson, Mark Hoeger

Emmy Gifford Children’s Theatre

Omaha, Nebraska (402) 345-4852

### **Coterie Children's Theatre, Kansas City, Missouri**

The Coterie is the Hallmark sponsored children's theatre located in Crown Center Shopping Center in downtown Kansas City, Missouri. Jeff Church is the Artistic Director and Kima Ingels is Executive Director. The Coterie couldn't attend the convention as they are in the midst of touring "Most Valuable Players" in southern Nebraska through the Mid-America Arts Alliance Regional Touring Program. The Coterie has a full season of home shows and tours one production annually.

CONTACT: Kim Ingels  
The Coterie  
Kansas City, Missouri (816) 474-6785

## **Our Special Guest - Respondents**

### **Dr. Jed Davis - Honorary Chair and Keynote Speaker.**

No Festival of Theatre for Young Audiences would be complete without an appearance by Dr. Jed Davis, Dean of the College of Fellows of the American Theatre and a fellow of the Mid-America Theatre Conference, Dr. Davis is widely hailed as the principal authority on the history and practice of children's theatre in the United States. Dr. Davis Co-authored the definitive classroom text on Children's Theatre with Mary Jane Watkins/Evans in 1960, they revised and updated in 1982 publishing a new book which was then reissued in 1987.

Jed is a recipient of the Association of Kansas Theatre Kansas Theatre Hall of Fame Award, the Kansas University Chancellor's Club Career Teaching Award and the Campton Bell Career Award from American Association Theatre for Youth.

Dr. Davis took the Kansas University Theatre for Young People on the road in 1960, making KUTYP the first touring operation in the state of Kansas. After more than 30 years of service, Dr. Davis retired and is now Professor Emeritus at the University of Kansas. In any gathering of children's theatre artists, his students, and those influenced by his students will number in the majority. We offer a special thanks to Dr. Jed Davis for joining us at AKT Convention 1992.

### **Pamela Sterling**

Pamela Sterling was named Honolulu Theatre For Youth's artistic director during the 1990-91 season. She was previously the artistic director of the Coterie Theatre, Kansas City, Mo., where her directing credits included *The Odyssey, Takunda, Great Expectations* and *Most Valuable Player*.

Sterling is a nationally recognized actress, director and playwright, honored by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch as Best Director in 1985 for her work at the Theatre Project Company of the Winifred Ward Scholarship in 1981. Last year, she was recognized by the Hawaii State Theatre Council as Best Director for HTY's production of *Romeo and Juliet*. Her playwriting accomplishments include the *Secret Garden, Friday's Child, the Ugly Duckling and Scrapbooks* (which will be presented at the AKT Convention by Lawrence High School Friday evening).

A member of the board of the Hawaii State Theatre Council, Sterling also is a member of the USA Chapter of ASSITEJ, the international organization of professional theatres for young audiences.

### **Max Bush**

Max Bush is teacher-turned-playwright from Hamilton, Mich. Holder of a bachelor's degree in English Education and a master's degree in Directing from Michigan State University, he has had plays published by Anchorage Press, New Plays, Inc., Dramatics Publishing and the Coach House Press.

Bush has received commissions from the Emmy Gifford Children's Theatre, the Nashville Academy Theatre, the Goodman/DePaul School of Drama and the Honolulu Youth Theatre, among others. He has received the Distinguished Play Award from the American Alliance of Theatre and Education (AATE), has won the Indiana University-Purdue University Playwrighting Competition for Young Audiences and has several times been listed with the AATE Unpublished Playreading Project. In addition to writing plays for young adults, Bush has also written plays for adults and for television and screen.

Besides coming to Lawrence as a convention respondent, Bush will be represented on both the University of Kansas Theatre and Seem-To-Be Players 1992-93 season playbills with his plays, *Thirteen Bells of Boglewood* and *Hansel and Gretel*.

A third respondent, the proverbial "player to be named later," will also be available.

### **Dr. Michael McElhaney**

Not a respondent, but someone of special interest who will attend the convention is Dr. Michael McElhaney, professor of theatre at Southwest Missouri State University. McElhaney will reprise his highly acclaimed workshop from last year's convention at Johnson County Community College which dealt with the national controversy centering around his production of *The Normal Heart* at the university and the subject of censorship of the arts in general. The workshop proved to be so popular that a number of members have requested that Dr. McElhaney be invited back to this year's convention.

### **Eleanor Brodie Jones (Guest Director)**

Ms. Jones is an arts development consultant for CETHECO, Inc. She has worked with the Metropolitan Arts Council to develop a variety of programs, including City Arts, Solo Artists, and Minorities Arts, as well as management systems that better accommodate artists and program sponsors. Ms. Jones served as an artist in residence at the Nebraska School for the Deaf for eight years; during this time she developed creative dramatics programs that introduced children to theatre arts, and utilized theatre techniques to increase learning and communication skills. Ms. Jones continues to develop arts programming for people with special needs in her role as Executive Director of Very Special Arts Nebraska. Other previous work includes assisting with the development of the "theatre in the schools" handbook published by the National Endowment for the Arts. Prior to moving to Omaha, Ms. Jones served as the Artistic Director of the Springer Children's Theatre in Columbus, Georgia. She holds a BA in Theatre from the University of Alabama, and an MA in Theatre from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

## **Theatre In Our Schools Celebrated**

There is still time to participate in the Theatre In Our Schools Month celebrations for 1992. Please take the time to do something to show your support for theatre and its place in education. TIOSM is a great way to expand the love of theatre to children.

Once all the celebrations and projects are completed, please take the time to let us know what you have done. One of the long-range goals of TIOSM is advocacy. Your reports give us the data we need in this world of documentation and supporting schedules. Not everyone believes in the necessity of theatre and only numbers can change their minds. Please send information on your celebration of TIOSM to Trish McIntire, 415 S. 3rd, Arkansas City, KS 67005.

It is also time to start planning for 1993. If you want to be more actively involved with TIOSM or have an idea for next year, please let us know. Thank you.

Eric Magnus  
Trish McIntire

## **Ideas for Community Groups**

\* Ask businesses to put THEATRE IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH on their marquees. \* Approach the local service clubs regarding theatre scholarships which could be announced during the month. \* Publish a community arts calendar of all the events being presented during the month. \* Organize a theatre festival within a school or with the community arts councils. \* Develop a local celebration involving the entire community by obtaining a declaration from the mayor and/or the school board and initiating a community planning task force to make preparations. \* Develop a local cooperative project with the local media to produce, for example, 1) student videotape or film, 2) specially aired television, radio, or newspaper feature, 3) a radio drama series, 4) a series of interviews on theatre education issues, 5) a special newspaper supplement on theatre education. \* "Adopt-A-Kid for the Theatre" - high school drama students, theatre professionals, community theatre members, service club members - anyone - could be encouraged to take a "little brother or sister" to the theatre. \* Professional or community groups could open their dress rehearsals or special performances with critique sessions to school groups. \* Put announcements of THEATRE IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH in all programs, playbills, and posters.

# AKT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Hunter, President  
Art & Theatre Arts  
Washburn University  
1700 College  
Topeka, KS 66621  
(W) 913 - 231-1010  
ext. 1640  
(H) 913-235-9617

Donna Jenks,  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Topeka Civic Theatre  
5341/2 N.Kansas  
Topeka, KS 66608  
(W) 913-357-5213  
(H) 913-234-0240

Bill Brewer, President-Elect  
Hutchinson CC  
Fine Arts Department  
600 E. 11th  
Hutchinson, KS 67501  
(W) 316-665-3592  
(H) 316-665-8209

## DIVISION CHAIRS

Children's Theatre  
Ric Averill, Chair  
Seem-To-Be Players  
P.O. Box 1601  
Lawrence, KS 66044  
(W) 913-843-5067  
(H) 913-842-6622

Secondary School  
Theatre  
Philip John Kinen,  
Chair  
412 W. 8th.#305  
Kansas City, MO  
64105-1409  
(W) 913-829-6900  
(H) 861-421-7445

Professional Theatre  
Repha Buckman,  
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Hosek, Chair-Elect  
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(H) 913-841-1680

AKT Central Office  
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